Deaths due to tobacco related diseases

555. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of deaths caused due to tobacco related diseases every year in the country;

(b) whether Government have ever conducted any inquiry into such deaths to find out the cause of disease; and

(c) whether any record with regard to identify intoxicants like alcohol, cigarette, tobacco, or any other substance, which causes maximum deaths is maintained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) According to a study conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), about 8,00,000 persons in Indian die every year due to their tobacco habit.

Periodic surveys undertaken by bodies like National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) and specific surveys conducted by National Family Health Survey provide information on prevalence and consumption patterns of intoxicants like alcohol and tobacco.

Eradication of leprosy

556. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set any target for the eradication of leprosy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures adopted to achieve the above objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) In conformity with the WHO global strategy, the Government of Indian has set a target for elimination of leprosy which means bringing down the prevalence rate of leprosy to less than one case per 10,000 population at the National level by the end of the year 2004-05.